

MINUTES OF THE
MAG HUMAN SERVICES
AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
March 30, 2017
MAG Office Building, Chaparral Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Councilmember Bridget Binsbacher, City of Peoria	Councilmember Mark Stewart, City of Chandler
Councilmember Wally Campbell, City of Goodyear	Councilmember Michelle Hess, City of Buckeye, Chair
*Supervisor Steve Gallardo, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors	#Councilmember Brigette Peterson, Town of Gilbert
*Councilmember Ryan Winkle, City of Mesa	*Joaquin Rios, Tempe Community Council
	Councilmember Jim Hayden for Councilmember Todd Tande, City of Surprise

*Neither present nor represented by proxy.
#Attended by telephone conference call.
+ Attended by videoconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Edith Baltierrez, City of Surprise	Brandee Mead, MAG
Jon Ford, Vitalyst Health Foundation	Maria Piña, MAG
Suzanne Pfister, Vitalyst Health Foundation	
Sam Richard, Protecting Arizona Family Coalition	

1. Welcome and Introductions
Councilmember Michelle Hess, City of Buckeye, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
Audience members were given an opportunity to address the Committee on items not on the agenda for discussion or information only. No comments from the audience.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Hess entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Wally Campbell, City of Goodyear, motioned to approve. Councilmember Brigitte Peterson, Town of Gilbert, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Year of Healthy Communities

Suzanne Pfister and Jon Ford, Vitalyst, presented an update on the first 90 days of “The Year of Healthy Communities”, and informed members how their respective cities could engage in this effort.

Mr. Ford noted that Vitalyst began 20 years ago as a hospital conversion foundation with the belief that the health of communities lies within cities. He demonstrated how life expectancy in a given neighborhood swings 14 years, depending on education, income, opportunities to exercise, and proximity to freeways, public transit, healthful food, and doctors. He noted that it’s not just about individuals’ choices, but the environment in which they live, and how that environment serves them. As an example, he noted single parents feeding their children fast food due to living in a food desert and not having access to healthy options.

He expressed that the term “social determinants of health” is a result of research and outcomes on health by the World Health Organization (WHO) and many national organizations. He stated that because this phrase has sparked debate on whether it’s too scholarly, Vitalyst and its partners have come up with “The Elements of a Healthy Community”, which includes access to health care to social justice. During workshops, attendees are asked to color in elements of the wheel on importance of healthy communities with people in the middle. The importance of that exercise is to understand how all those elements are interconnected.

Ms. Pfister noted that cities and towns do not have “health departments”, but that they do often have a department that covers every element on the wheel relating to health.

Mr. Ford noted that the goal for “The Year of Healthy Communities” is to shift the health paradigm and the way we talk about it today in that cities do not have health departments, and yet, everything they do is related to health. He expressed that the foundation hopes to build enough momentum to influence policy and systems change.

Mr. Ford expressed that members could go to livewellaz.org for more information, and to watch the previous and upcoming webinars on the wheel. Members can click on elements on the wheel to obtain more information on that element, to understand how it’s tied to healthy equity, and how it matters to resilience. He noted that participants in the first workshop, held cross-borders in Yuma, with 60 percent mono linguistic Spanish speakers, noted a high need for social and cultural cohesion.

Other sections on the website include top national resources, top Arizona resources, things that are happening locally, and the last section are national events that should be happening here.

Mr. Ford encouraged all cities to submit information on the page. He expressed that it would be great to highlight the work of other communities, and for others to see the work being done by others. He expressed that participants are given the opportunity to interact with one another during webinars. He urged cities to get involved so they could discuss their respective programs, and noted Buckeye's involvement with community paramedicine.

Ms. Pfister announced that Vitalyst's Board of Directors had just approved funding for Chandler Fire Department to do work on behavioral health.

Mr. Ford expressed that Vitalyst's biggest challenge is building a data baseline to go across all elements of the wheel, which will figure out the data points for each part of that wheel. He noted that Vitalyst had been in conversation with MAG, other Council of Governments (COGs), and the universities to figure out where the data lies. Ms. Pfister noted that is complicated to figure out which are the best and most representative data sources. She added that ideally, Vitalyst would like to create a city-specific wheel.

Mr. Ford expressed that health is much more about than just healthcare, and Ms. Pfister noted the example from the City of Payson, who created a community garden from the need to conserve and limit water, and to prevent duplicative efforts in the community. She expressed that the garden is now used for community volunteer hours, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) training, social gatherings, such as a recent wedding, gardening and cooking lessons, and to offset operating costs by selling pumpkins that are grown there. She pointed out that Payson's water conservation turned into all aspects of the wheel: educational opportunities, social justice, and social cohesion. She noted that the program has been so successful, it is now branching into growing heritage orchard.

Mr. Ford noted that Vitalyst became involved with paramedicine, and noted its surprise in learning that Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), who arrive before police, are not trained in behavioral health. While police are trained, their curriculum does not fit well with paramedics, who have no skills to de-escalate a situation. He added that nobody in the nation has adapted behavioral health training for EMTs.

Ms. Pfister noted that another shift across the nation was for firefighters to only get paid if they transported patients. She added that Arizona is the second state in the nation to "treat and refer", wherein Vitalyst is helping cities get certified to have their paramedics do a walk around of patients' homes to ensure they have a consistent medical home. Patients are also referred to services, such as senior centers, access to food, and utility assistance programs, amongst others. Whereas previous protocol was to get patients out of their homes, now fire departments in the valley may spend up to two hours asking a resident, "What else do you need?"

She noted that Vitalyst funded five cities' curriculum for community paramedicine, and that about 24 fire departments are getting trained to treat and refer. She expressed this is beneficial to cities, as it is earned revenue because cities are now reimbursed for calls to residents, especially the ones who habitually call for non-emergency reasons. She indicated that

coordinating care more efficiently will lead to lower costs for cities and added that better quality care would result in opportunities for public/private partnerships.

Mr. Ford closed the presentation by stating that it is not enough to work in silos, and that it is time to work more holistically, effectively and collaboratively. Ms. Pfister asked all communities to visit the website and provide example of action-based plans to showcase, as well as to note how members' respective cities can work more efficiently to coordinate the resources to help the wellbeing of their residents.

Councilmember Peterson announced that the Gilbert Fire Department has been running a low acuity medical program for the past six weeks, and that it's not billing residents as part of the pilot program. She added that Gilbert recently received its Certificate of Necessity (CON), and that ambulance service is provided by American Medical Response (AMR). She expressed hope in seeing how the program will positively benefit the community.

Councilmember Bridget Binsbacher, City of Peoria, expressed that community paramedicine not only helps with preventative measures, but also provides career opportunities. She noted that Peoria has launched and executed its community paramedicine program, along with two low acuity vehicles in the community to help residents fill prescriptions. She added that Peoria is on track with the program, just having received its CON, and will gradually be transitioning from outsourcing ambulance services, in addition to bringing in more equipment. She offered to follow up on progress with members.

Chair Hess expressed that she was excited that some of Buckeye's departments were already coordinating, and noted that their fire department was doing it on their own with community service, while economic development was doing it with certain teams. She indicated that Buckeye happened to be going through its general plan update, and that it's great timing to discuss the thought process with residents.

Mr. Ford pointed out that not only are residents better off, but paramedics are in a better start of wellbeing, and report being more satisfied with their job, as they have more impact.

Councilmember Campbell expressed that Goodyear is in the process of building a health and wellness park, and will be holding a public meeting for input. She added that the paramedicine program is underway, and hoped to have it launched before the end of the year. She indicated Goodyear would provide Vitalyst with input on some of its programs.

Chair Hess entertained a motion to recommend supporting "The Year of Healthy Communities". Councilmember Campbell motioned to support the recommendation. Councilmember Binsbacher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Legislative Update

Sam Richard, Protecting Arizona Family Coalition (PAFCO), expressed gratitude in the opportunity to provide a legislative update, and noted that PAFCO is a nonpartisan

organization, which does not mean it does not discuss politics, but rather that the organization works hard to be objective.

Mr. Richard began with House Bill (HB) 2496, which is a “strike everything amendment”, and explained that the original bill is no longer the same as the original, but that it is an annual attempt by the lending industry to expand on what PAFCO feels are predatory lending practices. He indicated that this year’s bill would have legalized loans upwards to 165 percent, and he detailed that these are small dollar installments, turning \$2,500 into \$7,500 in a payback scheme. He stated that PAFCO fought hard against this bill, and that it passed narrowly out of the committee where it was heard, but that the Senate President went on record yesterday, saying that he would not allow the bill to move forward. He noted that Arizonans outlawed payday loans in 2008, and that the statue ended up sun setting in 2010.

Mr. Richard expressed that HB 2372 has been a priority of Governor Ducey, which he detailed in his State of the State address, noting that Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) would extend to 24 months after reducing benefits to 12 months in 2015. Mr. Richard pointed out that 36 other states have it up to five years, which is federal maximum, and that about 80 percent of TANF recipients are children and their single mothers. He noted that the TANF extension comes with strings attached, and expressed that being in poverty is enough of a barrier. He added that a last minute amendment removed the ability for PAFCO to support the measure as it currently stands.

The amendment stipulates that families who don’t meet requirements of the program would miss a portion of benefits; another portion would be lost if compliancy is further lost; and benefits would be lost altogether the third time if compliancy was not in place. The stipulations are as follows: getting school-aged children to school; getting their children’s immunizations up to date; ensuring child support payments are current; and participating in jobs programs, which is where most strikes occur (missed appointments with jobs case worker due to unaffordable child care or reliable transportation.)

Mr. Richard expressed that this essentially made families ineligible for the second 12 month extension if they made a single mistake. He indicated that PAFCO did not view this as a true extension or restoration of the program, as it demands perfection. He stressed that while PAFCO supports the bill as a whole, it cannot support the bill, as it cannot support some of the most vulnerable citizens.

Mr. Richard moved onto HB 2404, which he expressed would essentially restrict citizens’ ability to bring issues to the ballot. He expressed that a few initiatives, such as First Things First and the elimination of cock fighting, were citizen-led. He noted that 70 percent of people who make less than \$20,000 are unregistered to vote, and that PAFCO would like to see a broader representation of people who have access to the ballot. He added that removing the ability to remove initiatives from the ballot disincentives people from participating in the electoral process, and stated that this might be a reaction to Proposition 206, which increases minimum wage. He noted that Prop 206 had a broad base of support, and added there were Prop 205 issues around that. Mr. Richard stated that the legislature is worried it can’t tinker with initiatives once they pass. He noted that while it’s difficult to make changes, it is not

impossible. Mr. Richard indicated that HB 2404 has been passed by both chambers, and has been signed by the Governor, and is set to become law 90 days after end of session.

Two other bills are working their way through the process: and he noted that this is more of a political move where similar pieces of a bill is split into different bills, it makes it much more difficult to pursue a referendum. He stated that instead of referring to one ballot, you refer to three different issues to the ballot, essentially voiding them. He pointed out that this would be highly unlikely, and that proponents of these changes know this, and they are working to make it difficult.

Mr. Richard pointed out that HB1406 (previously Senate Bill 1198) is a legislative response to the unscrupulous lawyer doing “drive by” lawsuits for noncompliance for American with Disabilities Act (ADA). He noted that regional chambers of commerce were pursuing a solution to this, and expressed that the legislation that was previously pushed by the chambers of commerce stripped away the rights of people with disabilities. He added that one of the provisions of the bill was to add a “cure period”, allowing a business 50-90 days to become ADA compliant. Mr. Richard stressed that PAFCO’s stance is that ADA has been in place for the past 27 years, and expressed that the chambers of commerce’s original solution was detrimental to people with disabilities. He pointed out that last week there was a compromise that took away the cure period, and added language that required the person who brought the lawsuit forth to be aggrieved, which is a legal threshold that is harder to reach. He noted that this party was not a true aggrieved person. Mr. Richard noted that those two changes allowed people in the disabled community to be more supportive of the bill, which is moving forward.

Mr. Richard commended the work of the Attorney General in fighting back against bad lawsuits, which consolidated and vacated all of the judgements that previous judges had made in support of this lawyer. He noted that this has ramifications with local businesses.

Moving onto the budget, Mr. Richard noted that lots of the committee hearings are over, and that most of the bills have moved through the process and are now awaiting on the budget packet. He noted that revenues are up, which gives people ideas on how to spend it. He noted that Governor Ducey’s plan included the Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) shift, wherein the bonding authority for universities would take away money from city budgets, as well as the state’s budget, and allow the universities to bond up to a billion dollars over the next ten years.

Mr. Richard noted that this is a great idea, but that it has very little support at the state capitol. He noted that the budget is the governor’s priority, and that he will not likely sign a budget that does not have that in it, while the legislature won’t pass a budget that does it in it. This may prolong the legislative session into June or July.

Mr. Richard expressed that the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) is also a priority of the governor, but not of the legislature. The governor wants to shift about 90 million dollars from HURF funding that would affect residents. He expressed there is little support from city leaders for both provisions, which affects city budgets, and he urged all to contact representatives.

He noted that other topics include K-12 education. He expressed that Governor Ducey proposed an additional 14 steps to Prop 123 with moderate levels of funding for teachers' two percent salary increase over five years that equals four tenths of a percent per year. Mr. Richards added that educators are pushing back on that, and will continue discussions potentially well into May.

Mr. Richard noted that the attempt to reduce the effectiveness of Shannon's Law was stopped by the Senate President.

He also noted that he would check into SB 1278 regarding the proposed parking policy in Homeowners Associations (HOA), and report back to the Committee.

Councilmember Jim Hayden, City of Surprise, recommended exploring the Silver Sneakers program to see if it could fund personal trainers as a pilot program for communities in need.

6. 2017 Heat Relief Network

Brande Mead, MAG, expressed that preparations to kick off the Heat Relief Network (HRN) are underway. HRN starts in May and runs until September. She stated that an information collection sheet will be sent to partners in early April to indicate whether they will be hydration stations, refuge locations, or donation sites. She added that cash, bottled water, general donations, such as sunglasses, lip balm, and sunblock will also be accepted at donation sites. She indicated that MAG staff will be sending out a press release in early May to inform the community. She encouraged cities and towns to complete a form so they can be included on the map as a resource.

She noted that research shows that homebound, older adults are amongst the most vulnerable for heat-related deaths. She expressed the opportunity for cities to conduct wellness checks through community paramedicine programs, which could provide resources to assist residents if they are unable to afford utilities to keep cool. She added that the City of Phoenix is conducting wellness checks during their meals on wheels delivery service.

7. HSCIC Vice Chair Letters of Interest

Chair Hess indicated that the Vice Chair position is open, and that a memo was sent to members. Letters of interest are due May 5th, and the position will be approved by the MAG Regional Council (RC) during the May 15 meeting.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Campbell requested more information on HRN for the next meeting. Ms. Mead noted that Councilmember Hess and Vitalyst have been invited to present at MC on May 10 and RC on May 24 to request support for the healthy communities' initiative. Councilmember Campbell requested Vitalyst's presentation from today.

Adjournment

Having no further discussion, Chair Hess adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2017.

